



Pentecost 6 - Sunday June 30th, 2024

The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Call to worship & Lighting the Candle

Holy One, Holy Three,
gather us into your presence.
Help us to set down what is not needed.
Help us to lay aside our preoccupations.
Help us to open our hearts to you.
Bless this time that we share,
and let your love light the way.

Light the candle - Christ is with us.

Acknowledging



**Uniting Aboriginal and Islander
Christian Congress**

As we gather, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these unceded land and waters. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Collect:

Lord Jesus,
you come into the midst of human need,
suffering and death
and listen to our requests.
You encourage faith and banish fear.
You bring healing, life and peace.
You are our Saviour forever: holy is your name.
Amen *

Singing - Morning glory, starlit sky TiS 174 **(Can be sung to VIENNA TiS 440)**

OR: Come, O God of all the earth TiS 181

Prayer



God of all, you are the author of life.
In you we live, and move, and have our being.
For you, the whole created order sings her joy,
and we join the chorus.

Praise for the fresh winter mornings,
for the daffodils unfolding, yelling,
"Yellow! Hello to the promise of spring!"

Praise for the cold ocean currents
bringing breaching whales
close to our shores,
splashing and crashing in divine dance.

Praise for each unique sound
that lifts and lilts from the beaks of birds;
a hymn of rising in the morning
and a lullaby of nesting at dusk.

Praise for the blessing of soup and fresh bread,
shared around a table of grace,
where all have a place.

In the quiet we bring you
our own prayer of gratitude:
(keep a good space of quiet)

Psalm 130:1-6

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
**Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
**But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

Our prayer continues:

Here we are - crowding in on you again Jesus,
pushing our way through to see you,
to speak to you, to touch you,
and you see us, and you know our presence
and you call us by name.



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Forgive us for the times
when we have not had enough faith
to reach out for you.

Forgive us for the ways
we have prevented or discouraged others
from getting close to you.

Forgive us for letting apathy, fear or unbelief
stem the flow of your blessing,
for others and for us.

(time of quiet)

But, there is forgiveness with you.

So, siblings in Christ, be assured;
we are loved, forgiven and made new again,
to continue God's relentless mission of love
in the company of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Passing the peace

May the Peace of God dwell with you:
and also with you.

Listening

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

For these words of faith and for Jesus the Word
Thanks be to God.

Reflecting - Rev. Amanda Nicholas

Transformation comes in speaking truth to power.

In this week's reading we find ourselves just settling into the plight of Jairus when it is interrupted with a story within a story. A narrative in Mark's gospel we no doubt have all encountered on many occasions. An entwining of stories we remember because of the feelings it elicits within us. The questions it raises within us around faith, hope, life, death, healing, worthiness, power and the kingship of Jesus just to name a few and we are invited into this profound moment in Jesus ministry where two miracles take place. We are invited to witness

these two moments where life is restored and living begins once more.

Jairus and the bleeding woman come to Jesus not just with an urgency but a sense of certainty that Jesus has the capacity (the power) to do something radical for them.

Jairus comes to Jesus and pleads his case as a parent in despair because his daughter is near death. Without hesitation Jesus follows Jairus at his request to where his daughter is being tended and it is on the way that Jesus encounters the woman who is bleeding.

Scripture tells us that she has endured this condition for 12 years and has exhausted all her resources in trying to become well. When this woman encounters Jesus among the crowds, she reaches out to touch his garment. I imagine that as a woman who was marginalised and on the outside of her community due to her condition she may have reached out to Jesus in that place and in that way because of the cover of the crowd still pressing in around Jesus. A moment when she could anonymously reach her desired goal – to be healed of her haemorrhaging and begin to live again. Yet the moment she connects with Jesus, not only does SHE feel something transformative happen, but Jesus also feels something transformative. Jesus now aware that something has taken place asks who touched his cloak rather than "who did this?" When she responds owning her actions Jesus doesn't reprimand her but rather celebrates with her in her moment of new beginnings. A moment of resurrection for this woman as the magnitude of what it means for her to now be able to re-enter the community to which she belongs is made real for her.

It is at that moment we are prompted to return with Jesus on Jairus' original journey, for people came out from Jairus' home to announce that it was no longer necessary for them to hurry on as Jairus' daughter had died. Jesus consoles Jairus and tells him not to fear. Taking the three disciples with him – Peter, James and John they enter the house. Jesus sends out of the house,



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those whose belief couldn't let them see beyond what was tangible. Then with the child's parents and the disciples Jesus speaks and the girl is restored to life.

In both stories Jesus sees the person, puts their needs first and responding with compassion and empathy uses the means he has to create wholeness and life. Jesus doesn't question their request of him or the depth of their faith, but rather sees them each for who they are and acts within his means to serve them.

As we daily move among our communities this reading offers us a glimpse of what it looks like to speak truth to power. To look beyond the differences we have, to see into the marginal spaces and see the whole person in the same way Jesus sees Jairus, his daughter and the bleeding woman and respond with compassion and empathy. When we look upon one another with a Jesus glance and a lens of love, we recognise that we are all created within the divine community. In this knowledge we can build up the capacity in one another to speak truth to power, seeing the delights in our differences which ultimately enables us to be filled with awe as the breadth and depth of God's love is made manifest across the world.

Poetic reflection:

Restored - Mark 5:21-43

of course I knew
what I was reaching through:
barricades of fear
constructed year upon year
to keep me away,
to keep me at bay

and yet I was already spent
too long alone, unclean,
unclaimed, unnamed
that's why I went

I knew I risked the razor-wire of
reproach:
how do you dare approach

this holy man
and breach the borders
of death and order
with your unclean hand,
to steal a healing

but I believed he could make me well
and as his power poured
through every cell
and my life-force was contained
when my heart received a name:

he called me 'daughter'

Jennie Gordon © 2012

Singing - Jesus Christ is waiting TiS 665

OR: O Christ the healer TiS 638

OR: I heard the voice of Jesus say TiS 585

Offering

God who calls us to give,
use our abundance, however small,
to meet the need that we know is all around us.
God who calls us to give,
use our lives, however small,
to bring us all closer to your vision of peace.
Amen.

Notices

Today is World Social Media Day.

Prayers for World & Community

Take time with this prayer to allow people to experience the spaces of quiet. You could have a sand bowl with a candle in the middle, and some taper candles for people to light as they pray and sing.

Refrain: Taize chant: TiS 737:

**Lord, Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment,
bring healing, bring peace.**

O God, hear our prayer
for all those people who are reaching out
with hope for healing and peace
(leave a time of quiet)

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Out of the depths we cry to you,
O God, hear our prayer.
**Lord, Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment,
bring healing, bring peace.**

O God, hear our prayer
for the planet and all living things that reach out
with hope for healing and peace
(leave a time of quiet)

Out of the depths we cry to you,
O God, hear our prayer.
**Lord, Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment,
bring healing, bring peace.**

O God, hear our prayer
for the homes and communities in our world that
reach out with hope for healing and peace
(leave a time of quiet)

Out of the depths we cry to you,
O God, hear our prayer.
**Lord, Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment,
bring healing, bring peace.**

O God, hear our prayer,
bless all who live in fear
with the assurance of your love,
calm the storms, strengthen our faith,
Bless us with peace.
(leave a time of quiet)

Out of the depths we cry to you,
O God, hear our prayer.
**Lord, Jesus Christ, Lover of all,
trail wide the hem of your garment,
bring healing, bring peace.**
As we pray together:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Singing - Christ, from whom all blessings flow TiS 440

OR: Lord, your almighty word TiS 447

Blessing

People of the living Spirit,
pilgrims on the way,
go knowing that you are loved,
wildly and without limit,
beyond your own understanding.

Go knowing that you have, within you,
a light that defeats darkness
and a joy that cannot be quenched.

Shine that light of Christ at all times,
and be generous in your living,
with words, with love,
with deeds of compassion and kindness
and your joy will be contagious.

God to love and to serve God,
in the name of Christ, Amen.

*Reflection: Rev. Amanda Nicholas
Friend of The Fig Tree.*

*Liturgy & Editor: Rev. Jennie Gordon
Shearwater Ministry Team - Cowes*



** Collect from Rev. Ron Gordon in 'Dad & Daughter,
Prayer and poems on the Gospel,
Years A, B & C.*